

Nightfall Brings No Comfort to Thousands of Sufferers in Flood District

Forecast Offers Little Hope

Washington, March 26.—Weather forecast: Georgia—Rain, followed by fair Thursday; cold wave by night; Friday, fair.

Florida—Generally fair Thursday and Friday, preceded by rain in north portion Thursday; colder Thursday; cold wave in north portion.

Alabama—Generally fair Thursday and Friday; cold wave Thursday.

Mississippi—Fair Thursday and Friday; colder Thursday, with cold wave in south portion; rising temperature Friday.

Louisiana—Fair Thursday and Friday; colder Thursday; rising temperature.

Eastern Texas—Fair Thursday and Friday; colder Thursday along the coast; rising temperature Friday.

Oklahoma—Fair Thursday and Friday; rising temperature Friday.

Arkansas—Fair Thursday, with warmer in west portion; Friday, fair and warmer.

Tennessee—Rain or snow, followed by fair and colder Thursday; cold wave in east portion; Friday, fair, with rising temperature.

Kentucky—Rain or snow, followed by fair and colder Thursday; Friday, fair, with rising temperature.

West Virginia—Rain or snow, with a cold wave Thursday; Friday, fair, with warmer in afternoon.

Ohio—Rain or snow Thursday, with colder in south portion; Friday, fair, with rising temperature.

Indiana—Snow flurries, followed by fair Thursday; Friday, fair, with rising temperature.

GLOOM CAST OVER RUSHING WATERS

Darkness Comes, Shutting Out Scenes That Beggars Description.

CUT OFF FROM WORLD

Scores of Ohio Cities and Towns Are Inundated by Flood.

(By Associated Press.)

Columbus, O., March 26.—Ohio is experiencing the worst flood in its history. Many estimates that the damage to property is the greatest since Galveston, Texas, was literally swept off the map.

Gathering darkness to-night brought no relief to the scores of cities and towns of the State that are inundated and cut off from the outside world, but instead cast a gloom over the rushing waters, practically thwarted rescue work, and increased the horrors of the situation. Thousands of persons are imprisoned by the swollen waters.

Although the waters in some places are reported to be slowly receding, there was no immediate relief in sight to-night, while rain continued to descend at times in torrents.

Many Wild Rumors Confirmed.

So appalling and seemingly exaggerated were many of the reports from flooded cities and towns to-day that they were disputed and in many instances wholly disregarded. Later reports from these same sections, however, many times confirmed, seemed to be wild rumors. In other cases reports proved incorrect.

The various news agencies are working under great difficulties in securing accurate reports, because of crippled wire facilities. Many cities and towns are completely isolated, and only rumors can be obtained. These cannot be verified until wire and transportation service is restored.

Although reports of distress and disaster are coming in from every section, the greatest damage and loss of life apparently is at Dayton. Conditions there beggar description. While the business section is practically all under water, and the estimated loss of life is appalling, fires are adding to the terror.

The lurid lights from burning buildings are adding horrors to the stricken

city to-night. Loss of life is estimated at from hundreds to thousands. Handicapped efforts at rescue work to-day failed to clarify the puzzling situation regarding loss of life from Columbus. Many who are considered conservative place the loss there from 100 to 150.

At Delaware, twenty-five miles north of Columbus, the inhabitants are still flood bound, and details are unavailable. The known dead already number thirty-three, according to a correspondent on the scene. This town, not unlike others, is isolated.

From Sidney comes the report that from 100 to 500 have been drowned. Governor Cox said he had information that there was no loss of life in Sidney.

Timin reported at least fifty lives lost.

Stratford Swept Away.

Stratford, a town near Delaware, according to an unconfirmed report from a farmer who reached Delaware, to-day, was literally swept from the map and 150 are drowned.

A wireless report received at the Ohio State University here this afternoon from Mount Vernon said that town was hit hard by the flood and probably 100 had lost their lives. This report could not be verified to-night.

Meagre reports from Hamilton, in the Miami Valley, are that a half-dozen or more lives were lost. Confirmation is lacking.

Reports from the southern part of the State indicate that the situation there is serious and may result in a heavy death toll. Zanesville, on the swollen Muskingum River, according to reports to-night, was largely under water, and several buildings are reported to have collapsed. Wire communication was cut off early to-night, when the Western Union office was flooded. The operator's last words were that the town was under water, that a building near to the telegraph office had fallen and that he would have to get out.

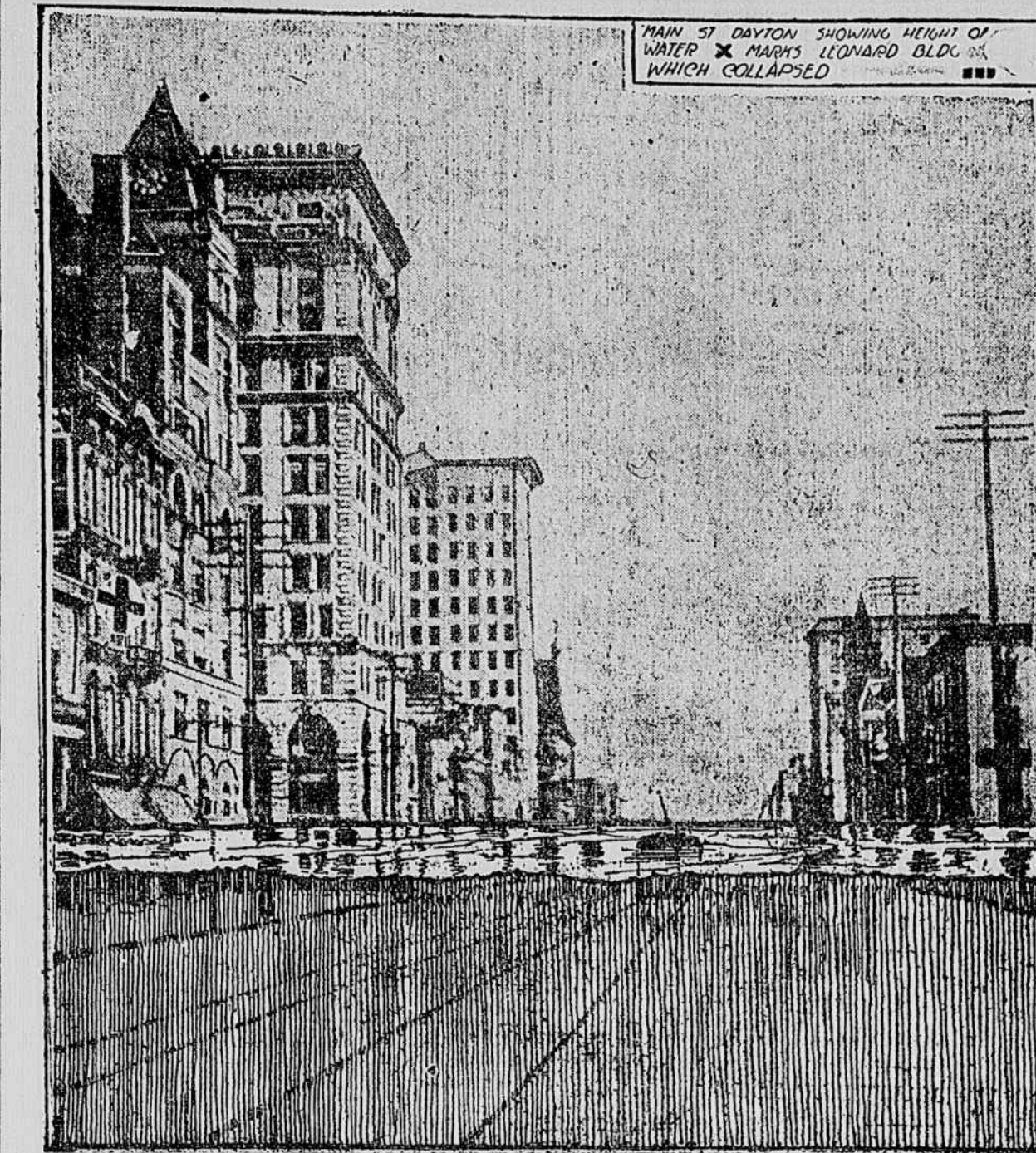
The Muskingum River empties into the Ohio River at Marietta, and the United States Weather Bureau to-day sent out flood warnings to all points below Zanesville to prepare for a flood.

Last available information from these places was that they were partly or wholly submerged. Marietta and McConnellsville were reported under several feet of water. The Muskingum River was reported to be more than ten feet higher than ever before.

Chillicothe, Circleville, Portsmouth, Ironton and all points in the Miami Valley south are cut off from communication to-night, and all are either partly or almost wholly under water, according to last reports available to-day.

At Chillicothe the telephone and telegraph offices were flooded early to-day and all communication cut off.

Reports from Akron late to-day were that at least 500 families are home-



MAIN ST DAYTON SHOWING HEIGHT OF WATER X MARKS LEONARD BLDG WHICH COLLAPSED

less and that there were many fatalities. Massillon, New Philadelphia, Marion and Lima also were reported to be partly inundated and were cut off from communication.

SAYS 600 BODIES TAKEN FROM FLOOD

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Cincinnati, O., March 26.—A. L. Monroe, of this city, received from his brother, J. C. Monroe, at Dayton, the first definite information received here since the breaking of communication thirty-six hours ago. According to Mr. Monroe, who was in long distance telephone communication with his brother, the list of known dead is 600, with the probable total estimate for Dayton at 1,200.

"My brother declared that there was 600 bodies recovered from the flood," said A. L. Monroe. "This is in Dayton proper, and does not include the outer districts, where the devastation was more complete. He declares that a careful estimate of the total number of dead within the city limits of Dayton will probably be 1,200."

This, however, does not include Marietta and the smaller towns. Suffering, he declares, is extreme, and little food, clothing or even drinkable water is obtainable.

WORST OF GREAT STORM NOW OVER

Within Very Short Time It Will Disappear in Ocean.

WILL MOVE RAPIDLY

Official Forecaster at Washington Gives Out Encouraging Report.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Washington, March 26.—Professor A. Henry, official forecaster at Washington, said to-night:

"The worst of the great storm is over. It has been stagnant for about three days, but our reports indicate that it will move rapidly now to the Northeast and disappear in the ocean."

As to the Lower Mississippi, which is usually a point to be watched with special interest, there are some chances that the flood will be as great, if not greater than that which occurred there last February. At that time the river reached a stage at New Orleans of eighteen and four-tenths feet, this being four feet over the danger limit. Circumstances that may prevent a great flood at New Orleans are that the waters appear to be moving off rapidly in the river without the formation of a crest line or wave.

"Our reports to-night from Pittsburgh indicate that there will be no dangerous flood there. At 7 o'clock to-night the stage was twenty-five feet and was still rising. That is three feet above the flood stage, but our observer says that he does not expect any greater height than twenty-six feet."

"Excessive rains have continued in the Ohio watershed, and considerable rainfall is reported in the Atlantic and Gulf States. In the lower Missouri and Middle Mississippi Valleys and Southwestern Lake Region the rain has turned to snow with the approach of colder weather from the Northwest. The Northwestern cold wave, in fact,

is now pushing South and covers practically the entire country between the Mississippi River and the Rockies, but the temperature is beginning to moderate in the Northwest."

"Additional late reports received at the Weather Bureau confirm earlier indications of heavy rains on the watersheds of streams in Kentucky and Tennessee, which enter the Ohio River from the South, but the precipitation north of the Ohio River Wednesday was not heavy, and the volume of waters in the rivers of that section was not materially increased. However, a repetition of the flood in the Ohio that was experienced in January of this year is indicated, with a probable stage at Cairo of at least fifty feet within the next ten days. The crest in the Mississippi at St. Louis may slightly exceed twenty-seven feet by the end of the week. Flood stages are indicated for the upper Susquehanna and in the Hudson River at Troy and Albany."

"Definite stages in the Mississippi below Cairo cannot yet be forecast, but with the water now in sight, a flood with stages not very greatly in excess of the stage experienced in February of this year seems wholly probable."

"The outlook for the cessation of rain in the flood districts within the next twenty-four hours is good."

"The storm now centered in Kentucky, which has been causing general precipitation for several days, will now move rapidly northeastward and pass into the ocean by Thursday night, accompanied by rain and shifting gales, and followed by fair and much colder weather in the Atlantic States. The weather Friday will be fair throughout practically the entire country."

"Tornado warnings have been ordered for Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Northern Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, the extreme West portions of North Carolina and Virginia, and Southwestern Pennsylvania."

"Storm warnings are displayed on the Atlantic Coast from Jacksonville to Eastport, and on the Gulf Coast from Mobile to Cedar Keys."

WATERS OF MIAMI ARE GOING DOWN

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Phonetic, Ohio, March 26, 8:30 P. M.—The Miami River at Dayton is rapidly going down.

At Cincinnati a heavy rain is falling, and the Ohio River has risen to the fifty-six-foot level, the highest reached in many years. Unless the rain abates shortly, the river will reach sixty feet by daylight.

At Terre Haute the water around the city is standing at a level, but a few miles north of the city, at Clinton, the river is reported as rising rapidly.

At Columbus the water is reported

President Appeals to the Nation

Washington, March 26.—President Wilson to-day issued the following appeal to the nation to help the sufferers in the Ohio and Indiana floods:

"The terrible floods in Ohio and Indiana have assumed the proportions of a national calamity. The loss of life and the infinite suffering involved prompt me to issue an earnest appeal to all who are able, in however small a way, to assist the labors of the American Red Cross to send contributions at once to the Red Cross at Washington or to the local treasurers of the society."

"We should make this a common cause. The needs of those upon whom this sudden and overwhelming disaster has come should quicken every one capable of sympathy and compassion to give immediate aid to those who are laboring to rescue and relieve."

"WOODROW WILSON."

The President also sent the following telegram to both Governor Ralston, at Indianapolis, and Governor Cox, at Columbus, Ohio:

"I deeply sympathize with the people of your State in the terrible disaster that has come upon them. Can the Federal government assist in any way?"

as falling, and the weather is growing colder. A drizzle which has been falling all day has turned to sleet and rain. The water is still rising at Hamilton, Ohio.

A report coming through Cincinnati has just reached here of a heavy wind and rain storm at Harriman, Tenn. The report states that many families have been driven into the storm through their homes being wrecked.

Freezing weather is reported over almost the entire State of Iowa. The rain which has been falling in many places is changing to snow.

Colder weather is reported from all parts of Ohio and rain or snow in many places.

BADLY CRIPPLED BY OHIO FLOODS

Traffic on Norfolk and Western Is Disturbed by Submerged Tracks.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Roanoke, Va., March 26.—The Columbus and Cincinnati districts of the Norfolk and Western, crippled as a result of the Ohio floods. According to information received to-day, the line is in order, however, from Portsmouth east. The following is a digest of the report received at the general offices of the Norfolk and Western to-day over the company's wire and Western Union Telegraph.

"Heavy rains last night over the Norfolk and Western in Ohio; all roads are out of business at Columbus. Both tracks of the Norfolk and Western have been washed out a half mile west of Circleville."

"This morning the rain had ceased falling at Columbus. Should the waters recede for four or five hours, the company will be able to repair damages to the tracks."

"At two points on the Cincinnati district water is three feet over the tracks. Latest information says that water is over the tracks and bridge at Chillicothe. Information at Cincinnati says that water is over the bridge at Clarke, with houses coming down and lodging against bridge."

"At Chillicothe the water is eighteen inches deep over the concrete platform at the passenger station and five feet at freight station. The water is stationary."

"All between Newtown and Clare on the Cincinnati district has been cut through thirty feet, and more is likely to go."

"Indications are that a full west of Chillicothe has been washed out. This will not be known definitely until the water recedes."

"Trains from Portsmouth east are late, but traffic is open."

RUMORS IN WALL STREET DENIED

Insurance Companies Not Selling Securities to Pay Their Losses.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

New York, March 26.—Officers of large fire insurance companies in this city denied to-day that there was any truth in the report current in the Wall Street district that those concerns had been selling securities in preparation for the payment of claims resulting from damage wrought in the Middle West States by fires, floods and tornadoes.

"It was pointed out that the companies did not know what the amount of damage to property insured by them had been. Also, that it usually takes from thirty to sixty days before a loss is adjusted and payment made, so it was unlikely that they would be selling securities before they knew what the claims of the insured totaled."

"Most of the large companies have offices at Chicago and St. Paul, through which the New York office received any information. An officer of the Continental Insurance Company, which has large amounts of tornado insurance in the West, stated that he believed the loss resulting from fire and tornado would not be large, especially from the latter cause."

PIQUA REPORTED PREY TO FLAMES

Rumor Over Telephone Says It Is Meeting Dayton's Fate.

ITS DEATH LOSS HEAVY

News Bulletins Which Tell Progress of Ohio's Greatest Disaster.

Phonetic, O., March 26—11 P. M.—(By Long Distance to New York).—For the past hour the flames from the burning buildings in Dayton have been visible here. The fire appears to be spreading. The rain has ceased, and this aid in quenching the fires is thus lost.

Troy reports over this telephone wire that Piqua is on fire, and that the flames of the fire there are plainly visible at Troy.

Piqua yesterday reported a heavy death loss, which has up to to-night been unconfirmed.

GOVERNOR SAYS 1,000

Columbus, March 26.—That the loss of life in Dayton will not be less than 1,000 was the estimate made this evening by Governor Cox, after an analysis of the information from the centre of the city, which was cleared through his office.

"How many more than that there will be no one can tell," he said.

Dam Is Weakening

Columbus, Ohio, March 26.—Governor Cox received a dispatch shortly before midnight that the Lewisstown dam was weakening, and might go out at any time. Acting on this supposed information, the Governor got into communication with railroad officials and arranged to send a special train from Bellefontaine early to-morrow with men and material to strengthen the dam.

Gang of Roughs Looting

Dayton, Ohio, March 26.—A gang of roughs went through the southern part of the city late tonight, instructing the people to extinguish all lights for fear of a gas explosion, and then began raiding. University students from Cincinnati and the traffic officers dispersed the gang.

Beckel House Burned

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Columbus, Ohio, March 26.—The Beckel House in Dayton and all that portion of Jefferson Street between Third Street and the Western Union office was reported on fire at a late hour this afternoon in a telephone message sent by Wire Chief Green, of the Bell Telephone Company, through Phonetic, Ohio.

The reports said at least 12,000 persons are marooned in buildings in the business district, a part of which is now in flames. Green said that four or five terror-stricken faces are watching the approach of the fire at every window, while hundreds of others are jumping from roof to roof, in hope of escaping the flames.

The fire is reported as having started from the explosion of an oil tank, which collided with a partially submerged building at Fourth and Jefferson Streets.

Other explosions are reported to have occurred at intervals of from half an hour to an hour following the first one.

Each tended to spread the flames, and the conditions are frightful. A fire which started in a building on Third Street, adjoining the library and two blocks south of the Phillips House, is burning to the south, and the wholesale liquor district is endangered.

At the time of the report, the fire had burned to within two blocks of the Home Telephone exchange, from which Green was talking.

The one ray of hope left for those marooned in the buildings in the section where the fire is raging, is that Third Street is very wide and the courthouse square lies directly ahead of the path the fire is taking. These open spaces may enable those who are fighting the fire with dynamite from small boats, to check the flames before they can cross the street and spread to other sections of the city.

Wants Gas Shut Off

Columbus, Ohio, March 26.—Governor Cox asked the Associated Press to notify its West Virginia correspondents to get into touch with natural gas companies supplying Dayton with gas, and ask them to shut off the supply of gas in Dayton. The gas is believed to be feeding the conflagration which prevails in Dayton.

Two Hundred Reported Dead

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

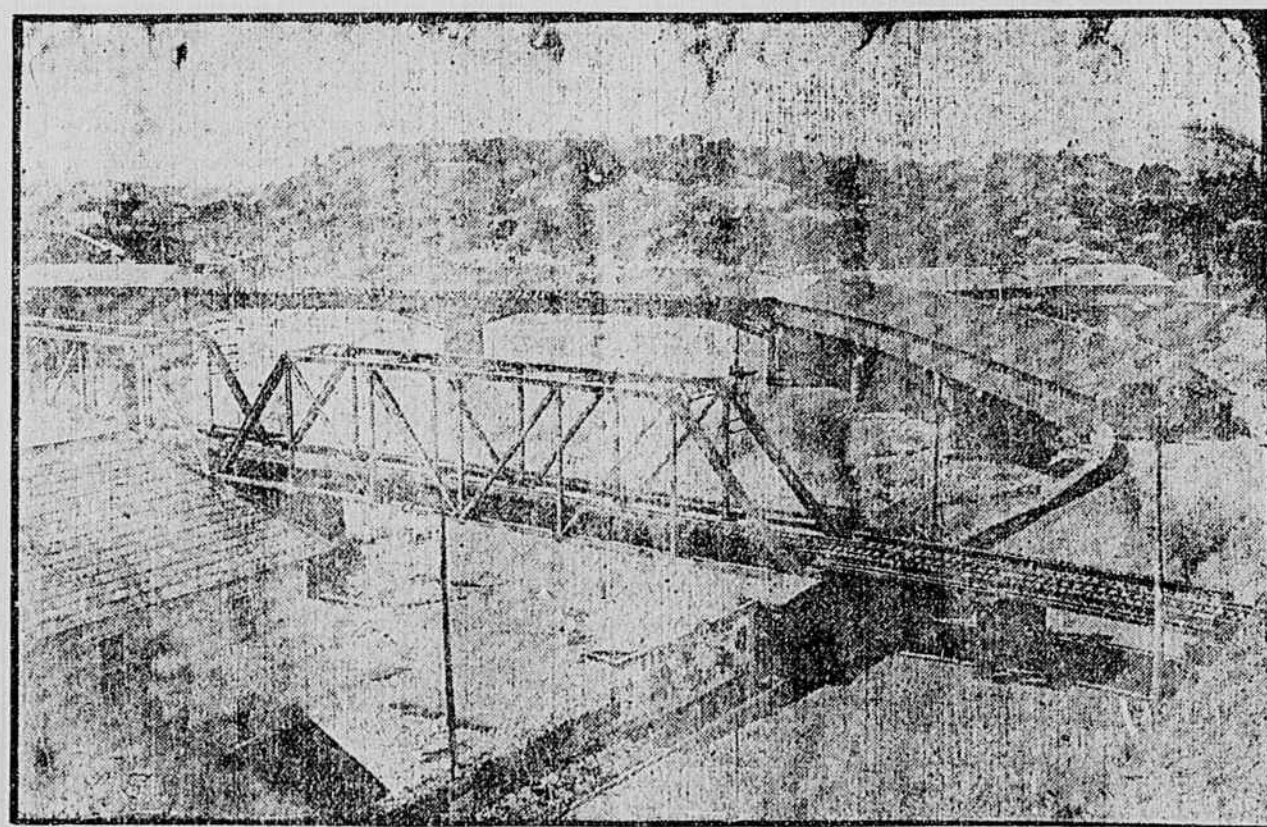
West Indianapolis, Ind., March 26.—Two hundred are reported dead here. Bridges connecting Indianapolis and this city have been washed away. Thousands crossing the river were caught in a water trap. Three hundred sought refuge on the roof of a factory.

Women who were rescued say they saw bodies of men, women and children drifting ashore. Late in the day only one wire connected the city with the outside world. Famine is threatened. Many women have died from exposure after being rescued.

The Best

Color Comic Section is found every Sunday in The Times-Dispatch. It's as interesting to grown-ups as it is to children.

The Old "Y" Bridge at Zanesville, Ohio



NOW SCENE OF FLOOD